

Climate Action Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2014

Brookline, Town Hall, Room 111

Committee members present: Linda Olson Pehlke, Deborah Rivers, Don Weizman, Werner Loke, Jon Cody Haines, Neil Wishinsky, Keske Toyofuku, Celinda Shannon, Jess Bergman, Alan Leviton, Ben Chang, Ali Tali

Guests: John Bowman(visitor), Mark Engler (visitor)

Meeting called to order – reviewed & approved December minutes

Unanimous approval of minutes

Keske: Final review of charter for selectmen's approval.

Linda: Questioned 4th point & wording. The group suggested a change to: To promote greater public awareness about the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through greater citizen participation.

Question on 5th point: Adjust to: To recommend and where appropriate implement programs that reduce the net production of GHG emissions in Brookline (deleting rest of sentence.)

2nd to last bullets: accepted Werner's recommendation to strike two second to last bullets. "To monitor promising" And "To monitor relevant ..."

One guest asked what our authority is. Neil Wishinsky explained that we are forming our charge to make it more proactive & serve as a liaison as well as making a wish list where we can best serve the Brookline community. Keske: high-level overview of what our charge is & then we address projects that community members are interested in working on. Linda: We do have a community action plan that has been adopted by the Selectmen. We advise & recommend, there is no legal ramification if we don't hit our charge.

Mark (visitor) is there anything for recommending programs to the schools for teaching? Kekse: there are a few folks who are interested in working with programs for the schools. Ben Chang is here as the school committee liaison and other various groups so that we hope we can work with them.

Don Weitzman suggested Mark make himself available to the committee to help.

Vote on accepting the changes to the charge as suggested in this meeting.

Attendance policy: Discussion on getting the appropriate people present from those boards or committees who could have an actual impact on the CAC charge.

Keske: review of internal attendance policy, always be exceptions, but hope that the intent sets a level of expectations. Ben Chang, asked re: Lara sets up meeting a year in advance at the end of the year.

Jess said yes, we should have the policy in place. The real question is how do we get folks to participate who can help implement the actions we propose. Neil suggested that we come up with a plan to then go back to those specific departments that would be affected by the department who could have influence. We should address specific projects & then determine who/what department would be appropriate to attend. Why waste a seat if folks are not going to show up?

Neil asked for appointment of Deborah Rivers as Brookline Greenspace's rep to the committee as well as wanting to get Jess Bergman officially approved.

Website is not as clear as it could be. Neil suggested adding language to new charge and also asking for volunteers. Not worried about getting the appropriate staff support when needed, just worried about quorum support.

Linda had verbiage questions on attendance policy: Motion to accept changes as suggested by Linda – yes. Change first sentence to read: "Regular attendance at Selectmen's Climate Action Committee (CAC) meetings is essential for maintaining continuity and cohesion in CA governance." Change 1st sentence, second paragraph to: "As CAC meetings are usually set more than two months in advance, CAC members are expected to demonstrate their commitment by regularly attending committee meetings (at least two-thirds of the meetings) and through participation in work and advocacy between CAC meetings." Third paragraph/sentence to read, "

Solar Condo guide: Keske – kudos to David for working on the guide. Alan Leviton assisted as well.

Reusable bags: Jess & Jon Cody – they reached out to Wilton where they did the reusable bag campaign & also to the Brookline Chamber. This was only for cloth bags – which were dry-cleaned & then returned. There was concern over cleanliness and also cost of getting those bags cleaned. Werner suggested to form a sub-committee to work on reusable bags.

Discussion of possible new activities for the committee to focus on. We are not CAB and it is not the intent of the group to be a CAB2. Werner: CAP assumes that we work in conjunction with other groups as well as work on independent projects. So we need to talk about concrete proposals.